



# PUBLIC HEALTH BYTES

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Henrico Health Department's Newsletter

Working in partnership  
with the citizens of  
Henrico County to create  
the conditions for health.

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## Communicable Diseases Update

**Reportable Disease List is updated!** Revisions to Virginia's *Regulations for Disease Reporting and Control* became effective May 2, 2007. Some key additions to the reportable disease list include influenza-associated death in children <18 years, Yersiniosis and Typhoid fever (formerly reportable under *Salmonella* infection). Also, additions were made to the list of conditions specifically reportable by lab directors to enhance early detection and response, and include Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, toxic substance-related illness, Typhoid fever, Yersiniosis, and CD4 and HIV viral load test results. For more information on the changes see:

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/Epidemiology/Regulations.htm>

**Tick-borne illnesses:** 'Tis' the season for increased risk of tick-borne diseases such as Lyme and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. If you or your patients are looking for information about tick management and control, see the Tick Management Handbook:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/lyme/resources/handbook.pdf>

**Hepatitis B:** For those of you who would like to brush up on hepatitis B diagnosis, we recommend an excellent self-educational website at CDC for hepatitis serology at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/serology/index.htm>

## Pandemic Flu/Avian Flu- ALERT PHASE: 3

**Pandemic/Avian Flu Update: Human Cases**—WHO recently confirmed 16 additional cases, including 14 deaths from infection with H5N1 avian influenza that occurred in Indonesia from the end of January 2007 up to 5/24/2007 and has updated the list of confirmed human cases. WHO had previously required external confirmation of lab results from Indonesia, but following an on-site assessment, it will now accept the results from the national laboratory.

## Seasonal Influenza Corner

### Virginia 2006/2007 flu Surveillance

Activity Level: **No Activity (as of 5/24/2007)**

<http://www.vdh.state.va.us/Epidemiology/Surveillance/Influenza/>

**CDC flu surveillance at:** <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

Influenza surveillance in Virginia for the 2006-07 season is drawing to a close. Overall, this season appeared to be relatively mild, locally. Influenza viruses may continue to circulate during summer. Please note the expiration for most flu vaccines is 6/30/07.

*Thanks to those healthcare professionals who submitted data on influenza like illness (ILI); a special thanks goes to New Market Medical Center for participating in active sentinel surveillance and Altius Family and Sport Medicine for participating in the CDC's program.*

## Environmental Health

**Scombroid:** Recent reports of scombroid cases prompt us to review the clinical picture. Signs and symptoms include flushing, sweating, burning, palpitations and dizziness. Scombroid poisoning occurs rapidly after the ingestion of spoiled fish, but is often misdiagnosed as an allergic reaction. Scombroid results from time-temperature abuse of fish, e.g., tuna, bluefish, mackerel, which releases high levels of histamine in the food.

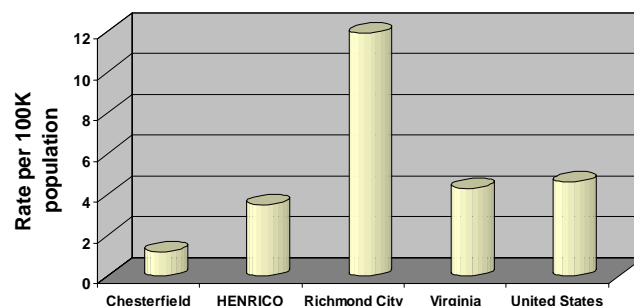
## Emergency Preparedness

**Hurricane Season starts June 1<sup>st</sup>!** The 2007 season is projected to be above normal ([www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov)). Review preparedness info at: [www.vdem.state.va.us](http://www.vdem.state.va.us).

**Save the Date: Henrico County Pandemic Influenza Summit - Friday, Aug 3, 2007, Sheraton West Richmond.** Register at <https://va.train.org>

## Tuberculosis

Active Tuberculosis Case Rate  
Richmond Metro Area 2006



The Richmond metro area continues to experience cases of active tuberculosis. Henrico reported a rate of 3.5 per 100,000 population for 2006 (see graphic above). Every health-care setting is expected to conduct an annual TB risk assessment to provide information needed to determine the facility's TB exposure control plan. For more guidance see "Guidelines for Preventing Transmission of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis in Health-Care Settings, 2005" at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5417a1.htm>

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